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REP. WAXMAN COMMENDS GROUPS FOR SUING TO STOP ADMINISTRATION'S PROMOTION OF UNETHICAL HUMAN PESTICIDE EXPERIMENTS

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Rep. Henry A. Waxman released a statement in reaction to the announcement that several public interest environmental and labor groups were suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over the new rule to promote the testing of pesticides on humans.

"Unethical human pesticide experiments must be stopped. It is morally wrong to encourage chemical companies to dose humans with pesticides in order to argue for weaker public health standards," said Rep. Waxman. "I commend these public interest groups for standing up to the Bush Administration, which seems to be committed to promoting pesticide experimentation upon humans."

The lawsuits are being filed simultaneously in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The groups filing lawsuits include Pesticide Action Network North America, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United), San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Natural Resources Defense Council. They are represented by attorneys with Earthjustice and NRDC.

In June 2005, Rep. Waxman released a report with Senator Barbara Boxer that analyzed 22 human pesticide experiments that the Bush Administration was reviewing or planned to review in the future. The report found that the experiments were rife with ethical and scientific defects.

In August 2005, Congress enacted a moratorium that prohibited EPA from accepting human pesticide experiments until strict ethical standards were established. Representative Solis pushed the moratorium through the U.S. House of Representatives.

EPA's rule to provide for the consideration of human pesticide experiments was finalized in January 2006.

For more information on Rep. Waxman's work on this issue, please visit www.democrats.reform.house.gov